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REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-identified patent application. Claims 1-15 remain in the application. Claims 1, 8, and 15 are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections as conceivably applied to the amended claims.

I. Interview

Applicant thanks Examiner Bochna for the courtesies extended to Applicant's attorney during the personal interview conducted on September 8, 2005. In the interview, proposed claim amendments were discussed in view of the applied references. The Examiner agreed that the proposed amendments appear to define over the applied references. These amendments are formally presented in this Response.

II. Invention Summary

The present invention is directed to a compression cap for connecting a conduit to a fitting. The cap has a generally cylindrical sidewall with one or more inward deformations. As defined in amended independent claims 1, 8 and 15, the deformations project radially inwardly from the sidewall to provide a friction fit between the cap and the sidewall as the cap is slid onto the conduit. As further defined in independent method claim 15, the deformation enables the cap to slide onto the conduit before the conduit end is positioned on the fitting, and before the cap is compressed.

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III. Art Rejections

A. Section 102 Rejection Based on U.S. Patent 3,030,129 to Appleton

Claims 1-4, 6-11, and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Appleton.

Appleton discloses a high pressure coupling for attaching a flexible conduit to a fitting. As shown in Figs. 3 and 4, the coupling includes a cylindrical outer wall 32 and an inner sleeve 35 that are concentric with the outer wall. The inner sleeve and/or the outer wall may include a number of outwardly bent claw-like members 48 that can be deformed to engage the conduit. In operation, the coupling is placed on the end of a piece of conduit such that the conduit fits between the outer wall and the inner sleeve. A clamping nut is placed over the coupling and threaded onto the fitting to engage the fitting and the coupling. As the clamping nut is threaded onto the fitting, the fitting forces the claw-like members into biting engagement with the surface of the conduit wall to prevent removal of the conduit from the coupling.

With respect to amended independent claims 1, 8 and 15, Appleton does not disclose 1) at least one inward deformation projecting radially inwardly from the cylindrical wall or 2) providing a friction fit between the cap and the conduit as the cap is slid onto the conduit. The claw-like members disclosed by Appleton are bent outwardly from the cylindrical wall. One end of the claw-like members may be bent toward the conduit to engage the conduit, but no portion of the claw-like members project radially inwardly from the cylindrical wall. The claw-like members do not provide a friction fit

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as the coupling is slid onto the conduit. Instead, they are deformed into biting engagement with the conduit after the coupling is placed on the conduit.

Additionally, with respect to amended independent claim 15, Appleton does not disclose sliding a one-piece unitary compression cap on the end of a conduit, followed by positioning the conduit end on the fitting, and followed by compressing the cap to compress and secure the conduit on the fitting. The conduit of Appleton cannot be positioned on the fitting *after* the interference fit has been provided, and it cannot be compressed *after* it is positioned on the fitting, because the claw-like members are deformed to engage the conduit *at the same time* the conduit is positioned on the fitting.

Because Appleton fails to disclose all of the elements of amended independent claims 1, 8, and 15, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection based on Appleton under Section 102 is unfounded and/or overcome, and therefore should be withdrawn.

B. Section 103 Rejection Based on Appleton in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art

Claims 5 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Appleton in view of Applicant's admitted prior art in Figs. 1 and 2.

The inadequacies of Appleton with respect to the independent claims is noted above. Applicant's admitted prior art completely fails to supplement the inadequacies of Appleton. In particular, the admitted prior art does not disclose, teach, or suggest a cap having a cylindrical sidewall with an inward deformation that projects

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radially inwardly from the sidewall and provides a friction fit with a conduit as the cap is slid onto the conduit.

Applicant therefore submits that the rejection of claims 5 and 12 under Section 103 is unfounded and/or overcome, and therefore should be withdrawn.

C. Dependent Claims

The dependent claims further define Applicant's invention and are therefore even more clearly allowable than the claims discussed above. Claim 2 further recites that the inward deformation comprises at least one rib. Claims 3 and 10 further recite that the inward deformation comprises at least one longitudinal rib. Claim 4 further recites that the deformations are approximately evenly spaced about the circumference of the sidewall. Claim 6 further recites that the shoulder extends around the entire circumference of one end of the wall. Claim 9 recites that a plurality of deformations are spaced circumferentially around the cap. Claim 11 recites that a shoulder extends radially inwardly from one end of the cap, and the conduit engages the shoulder. Claim 13 recites that a shoulder extends around the entire circumference of the first end of the cap. Claim 14 recites that a lip extends radially outwardly from a second end of the cap.

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IV. Conclusion

In view of the personal interview, the above amendments, and these remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly and respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad E. Kleinheksel", is written over a horizontal line.

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